

# CURRENTS

## Inside This Issue

- Dates to Remember ..... 3
- Tides of Change..... 4
- Struggle Between  
Family and Auxiliary ..... 5
- Modernization Video ..... 5
- Look Out for You, Too! ..... 6
- Congratulations ..... 6
- Aviation Report..... 7
- Flotilla Awards..... 8
- Finance Report ..... 9
- What Else our  
Members Do..... 9
- PA is Every  
Member’s Job ..... 10
- Vessel Exam and  
Visitor Programs ..... 10

## **We Remember Richard J. Runde** **Commodore 2008 – Ninth Western Region Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**S**ometimes it takes a lifetime to get to know someone. Sometimes it takes an instant. Some of us have not personally known Dick for a lifetime. But for each of us who has had the good fortune to at least meet him, we have been blessed. Because of his open spirit, we were able to get to know Dick as though it had been forever.

Dr. Richard J. Runde Sr., DDS, Commodore of the Ninth Western Region, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was a great friend, exceptional “boss” and a true family man. His strong moral character as a leader and mentor to his fellow members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary was refreshing. Dick’s Auxiliary career spanned 23 years and culminated in his election as our Commodore. It was an honor that he never took lightly.

The fact is Commodore Richard Runde overwhelmed our region with heartfelt passion about one thing which set him apart from any ordinary leader... he cared deeply for each and every single member – all 1,200 of them in his “AOR”– without waiver or

*He gave us so much from his heart, and he leaves a piece of himself with each of us. We will remember Dick and carry his message for him from this day forth.*



## Richard J. Runde, Commodore 2008

Continued from page 1

hesitation. In fact, Commodore Runde was so concerned about his members that his spirit and determination to do what was right spilled over onto everyone he touched.

Commodore Runde's unique style assured that his heart was always in the right place, and he was never ever driven by ego, self-interests or political agendas. He assured that our superiors heard our good ideas, regardless of who initiated them. He gave credit to others freely. He forced those around him to challenge the status quo. He made us rethink how we conducted our business. His enthusiasm showed no boundaries and he always had time to provide you with a word of praise.

Dick and I got to know each other better as co-leaders on our executive committee. When we both ran for the same office just a few years ago we entered the contest with a gentlemen's agreement—if he won, I would continue to serve, and if I won, he would do the same. Most people would never dream of making such a deal “with the other side” and, if they did, would in all likelihood never fulfill their commitment. Dick won, but it is what he did after that truly sets him apart. Rather than fear competition for a future position, he embraced and mentored me, encouraging me to be my best. He gave me opportunity, as well as the responsibility, that accompanies growth, leadership development and organizational loyalty. When he later decided to run for Commodore, he asked me to run as his Vice. It was because of this that I was able to get to know Dick as well as I did in such a relatively short period of time.

Commodore Runde led from his heart—but always with a purpose. He did not have a mean-spirited bone in his body. This is the leader that we elected and the type of person he was to me—and to each and every one of us. He gave us so much from his heart, and he leaves a piece of himself with each of us. We will remember Dick and carry his message for him from this day forth.

Dick was the self-proclaimed “drill, fill, bill” guy! He was proud of his day job, and even prouder to be a part of what might otherwise be known as our “night job.” But being Commodore of any auxiliary district is by no means a part time job. So Dick had to give of himself, and of his family time, to execute his responsibilities in the extraordinary fashion that he did—selflessly serving to better the experience for his members, as well as the Coast Guard and boating public, which we serve.

I know of no one that wears the uniform that COMO Runde is adorned in today more proudly. It showed in his actions each day. Since we learned of Dick's illness, and subsequent passing over the bar, Coast Guard officers and Auxiliary members from all around the nation have reached out to express their regret. Their words were not focused on loss, though quite real, but rather they were consistently about the kind, gentle, even-keeled man they had come to know and love.

Commodore Runde, your lifetime was a mere instant in the grander scheme of things, and we will miss you. We bid you farewell from this earth, and pray that your soul will be ever blessed with calm seas and following winds. It is in that spirit that all CG and Auxiliary personnel present today honor you, our friend and leader, Commodore Richard J. Runde with this farewell salute.

Presented with deep respect, and gratitude for the opportunity to learn from your example;  
Randy D. Podolsky,  
Acting Commodore  
04 December 2008



**RANDY D. PODOLSKY**  
DCO

**Ninth Western Region  
Executive Committee — 2009**

DCO .....	Randy D. Podolsky
DCOS.....	Ed Ross
DCAPT -N .....	Len C. Van Denack
DCAPT-S .....	Bob Auchinleck Jr.
DCAPT-E .....	Bob Higginson

**9WR Division Captains — 2009**

DCDR 1 .....	Kathy Chappelle
DCDR 2 .....	Ken Dixon
DCDR 3 .....	John L. (Larry) vanGoethem
DCDR 4 .....	Brian Pigeon
DCDR 5 .....	Ted Dawson
DCDR 7 .....	Mary Kobrow
DCDR 9 .....	John Linder
DCDR 10.....	Earl Gough
DCDR 18.....	Tom Lewis
DCDR 20.....	Norman Herman

**9WR District Staff Officers — 2009**

DSO-AV .....	Chuck Hagerman
DSO .....	Jim Fellers
DSO-CM.....	Michael Wiedel
DSO-CS .....	Amy Seeley
DSO-FN.....	Edward Fahrner
DSO-IS.....	Thomas Lewis
DSO-LP.....	Bob Egan
DSO-MA.....	Brian Pigeon
DSO-MS .....	Norman Pearce
DSO-MT .....	Jim McInnis
DSO-NS.....	John Wetterholt
DSO-OP.....	Arthur Remus
DSO-PA.....	Ronald J. Aidikonis
DSO-PB.....	Jerry Heitschmidt
DSO-PE.....	Dr. Timothy G. Caufield
DSO-PS.....	Kate Steimel
DSO-PV .....	Roy Hundt
DSO-VE .....	Roy Hundt
DSO-SR.....	Linda Hundt

**D-AD: Commodore Aids**

East - Wilbert (Bill) Fisher, West-Roy Hundt, Thomas Trucco, Rick McNulty, Tim Hoffmann

**CRC Civil Rights Coordinator** ..... William Naurich

**U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District**

District Commander .....	RDML Peter Neffenger
Sector Commander .....	CAPT Bruce Jones
Director of Auxiliary.....	CDR Karl Willis
Assistant Director of Auxiliary .....	Mr. Paul Barlow
Operations and Training Officer .....	CWO Mark Stevens
Operations and Training Officer .....	CWO Eric Schmidt

**D A T E S  
TO REMEMBER**

- **Summer Board Meeting**  
Board Only – No Staff  
June 20, 2009  
(Milwaukee)
- **Fall 2009 Conference**  
October 9-11, 2009  
(Schaumburg)
- **Spring 2010 Conference**  
February 19-21, 2010  
(Schaumburg)

**EDITORS NOTE:**

Hello all, please consider contributing to the next issue of *Currents*, both photos with appropriate caption and articles are accepted. We have until September 15th to accept content, so please try to set aside some time to share your thoughts and experiences within your specific field with your shipmates. For those of you who have contributed, thank you.

**JERRY HEITSCHMIDT**  
DSO-PB



**CURRENTS** is published by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ninth Western Region, at no expense to the government. Reprints of articles or pictures may be used in other publications without written permission provided proper credit is given. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a volunteer, civilian organization dedicated to assisting the Coast Guard in its mission of promoting boating safety. Disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is strictly prohibited and subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing the home address, home telephone number, spouses name and social security numbers, except for official business. Violations may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanctions.

## Tides of Change

The other evening, I watched a news story about 500+/- fishermen being rescued by the Coast Guard and local agencies from a piece of ice several miles long in Lake Erie. It seems like every year this happens. When will they ever learn?

Then, I got to thinking. This is kind of like the Auxiliary. We do the same thing the same way every year and then wonder why we didn't get better results.

One would think that the fishermen would learn that every year, at about the same time, a large piece of ice breaks off in Lake Erie, drifts out and melts. If you are a fisherman on the ice, your ice berg will melt and you will drown.

It looks like we would learn that we will get the same results every year if we don't make changes. Our ice berg is melting and we are the only ones that can rescue the Auxiliary.

CHANGE, that, terrible word that everyone will go out of their way to tell you is hard to do.

We set territorial barriers, many times based on not liking someone because of something that happened several years ago and refuse to reach out and work with them. In the mean time, our membership continues to decline and the mission suffers.

If we don't embrace change, we will drift out on our individual icebergs and we (the Auxiliary) will drown when our iceberg of discontent melts out from under us.

Now is the time to come together and do what is right for the Auxiliary.



**ED ROSS**  
DCOS



COMOs Podolsky (9WR), Cottrell (9CR) and Gress (9ER) greeting guests at the Symposium Grand Ball Extravaganza Spectacular!

# Struggle Between Family and Auxiliary

Sometimes there is a struggle between our families and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We put so much effort into the Auxiliary, we feel it is our duty to be at our best at all times, and because of this, we sometimes we put our families aside. This is not an intentional thing. We as volunteers take great pride in what we do.

Our families put up with a lot from us, as “America’s Volunteer Lifesaver’s” we sometimes take things for granted. When a call comes in for a rescue, national emergencies, we go now. When Public Affairs, Public education classes, Vessel examine Blitz’s etc... we go and put forth the best effort possible. All this time we leave our families behind.

When we have sudden events happen within the household, it throws our lives into chaos. As an Auxiliarist we feel that we still must go and do our duty, and yet, we have responsibilities at home that out weigh what is happening in the Auxiliary. That

is when we put the Family first and foremost.

Taking care of our families is a priority, they back us in all of our ventures in the Auxiliary. We should never take the Auxiliary as our job or to the extreme as though it won’t survive without us, remember, we are volunteers and our family is our responsibility. Take time to do family outings and vacations knowing that things are getting accomplished by capable members back at the station. Missing family events may occur. Make the most of every thing you do with your family.

Remember your families, they are your most important things in life.

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty.



**LEN VAN DENACK**  
DCAPT-N



Elected and PA/PB Officers are urged to view and share with members the U.S. Coast Guard Modernization Video available for download at: [http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2\\_itemId=426086](http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=426086)

**THOMAS NUNES**  
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs Department

## Look Out for You, Too!

Normally at this time of year everyone is looking forward to the upcoming boating season. Public Education classes are underway, operations workshops are being held, and vessel exam blitzes are being organized. We are all preparing for a fun and productive year. As probably everyone knows, last December we lost Commodore Runde suddenly and unexpectedly. Dick's passing touched all of us to varying degrees. To some, he was a close friend while to other he may have simply been our Commodore.

Usually in these Navigator articles we focus on ways you can help the Auxiliary and its missions. We may sometimes give a rah-rah for getting out there and doing boat classes, public affairs events, or program visits. Instead, I am going to take this opportunity to ask you to focus on yourself for a moment. Unfortunately, it usually takes the death of someone close to us to make us think of our own mortality. Shortly after Dick's death, and at the prodding of my fiancé, I went to visit my doctor for a complete physical. Fortunately, I am in pretty

good shape. Like many of us, I could stand to lose a few pounds and lower my cholesterol – but all in all I should be around for a while.

I am asking everyone reading this to take the time to get a physical. Not only does the Auxiliary want you to be around for years to come but so do its members, your family, and your friends. No one knows exactly how much time they have on this planet, but what I do know is that I am not yet ready to leave it. There are many things I am looking forward to doing, with the possible exception of my crew requalification, this year and there are many things I am planning to do in the years ahead. In the medical world, things don't usually get better by themselves. Early detection is the key to effectively dealing with a medical condition. Don't be thickheaded – get a physical!! Oh, and by the way... don't forget to do more missions this year.



**BOB AUCHINLECK JR.**  
DCAPT-S



### CONGRATULATIONS

*to DCAPT-S Bob Auchinleck and  
DSO-CS Amy Seeley on their engagement.*

*We wish them a long life of calm  
winds and following seas.*

*Your friends in Ninth Western.*

# Aviation Report

CHUCK HAGERMAN, DSO-AV 9WR

## What we did

While most of you have had your facilities on trailers and have been setting by the fireplace sipping cocoa and dreaming about patrols, those of us who fly have been out patrolling our coasts. Aux air doesn't shut down for the winter, so if you are looking for a way to participate during the off season contact your DSO-AV.

In the four months since the Fall Conference we have flown 53 patrols for 180 flight hours. That works out to about 18,000 miles of coastline observed.

On the 30th of October an air workshop and swim qualification was held at Air Station Traverse City (ASTC) with nineteen members attending. This is part of the continuing effort to provide service for the widely dispersed Air community.

On the 5th of February ASTC held Ice Operations and Law Enforcement assistance training for 13 members.

## What is new

As many of you know the eye in the sky is no longer monitoring 121.5 Mhz. That is the old emergency locator beacon frequency. At this time the Federal Aviation Administration has not mandated a change and some land based facilities will continue to listen for this signal. What does this mean for us? First we should continue to listen to this frequency on the standby radio during patrols

and immediately report and investigate any signal received. Second standby for a change to our PPR. ASTC has on order 406 Mhz locators for each of the facilities to be carried in one of the vests on board.

## What are we going to do?

Crew Resource Management (CRM) is new and improved. On Friday, 17 APR at the D9 Symposium we will present the new Enhanced Crew Resource Management Initial Training. This is the first time this version of CRM will be presented to Auxiliarists, and we excited about bringing in an instructor from the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL to put it on. The Coast Guard has partnered with several noted experts to develop this excellent new approach to professional airmanship. We are privileged to have an opportunity to receive this training.

By the time most of you read this you should have in hand the new Aviation Patrol Checklist. This is a document to be used for all patrols to ensure that all the preflight items are done as well as the post flight items.

The new ASTC Standard Operating Procedure is currently in the development / review process and will be published soon. This will be a compilation of all the memo's and best practices for operations from ASTC and should bring all the little known rules that aren't in the Ops Policy Manual into one document.

# FLOTILLA AWARDS



**PATRICK  
POZIWILKO**  
*Regional Auxiliarist  
of the Year*



## **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH**

- 1st Flotilla 7-07
- 2nd Flotilla 2-06 and  
Flotilla 20-05
- 4th Flotilla 3-05 and  
Flotilla 18-01

## **OPERATIONS**

- 1st Flotilla 18-01
- 2nd Flotilla 5-13
- 3rd Flotilla 20-08
- 4th Flotilla 20-01

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- 1st Flotilla 1-01
- 2nd Flotilla 1-09
- 3rd Flotilla 5-01
- 4th Flotilla 4-04

## **MEMBER TRAINING**

- 1st Flotilla 7-07
- 2nd Flotilla 5-01
- 3rd Flotilla 18-10
- 4th Flotilla 1-01

## **VESSEL EXAMS**

- 1st Flotilla 3-05
- 2nd Flotilla 20-05
- 3rd Flotilla 3-06
- 4th Flotilla 5-17

## **PROGRAM VISITS**

- 1st Flotilla 20-01
- 2nd Flotilla 5-13
- 3rd Flotilla 1-01
- 4th Flotilla 18-10

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

- 1st Flotilla 3-05
- 2nd Flotilla 1-01
- 3rd Flotilla 5-13
- 4th Flotilla 3-02

## **COAST GUARD SUPPORT**

- 1st Flotilla 20-01
- 2nd Flotilla 18-10
- 3rd Flotilla 9-08
- 4th Flotilla 5-06

## **RECRUITING**

- 1st Flotilla 9-01
- 2nd Flotilla 9-10
- 3rd Flotilla 2-06
- 4th Flotilla 1-01

## **MOST ACTIVE FLOTILLA**

- 1st Flotilla 3-05
- 2nd Flotilla 5-17
- 3rd Flotilla 1-01
- 4th Flotilla 18-10

## **MOST ACTIVE DIVISION**

- 1st Division 5
- 2nd Division 20

## **MOST ACTIVE MEMBER**

- 1st Patrick D. Poziwilko
- 2nd J.D. Ryan
- 3rd Alison Blind
- 4th Michelle M. Butry

## **FLOTILLA MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Flotilla 3-05

# Finance Report

ED FAHRNER, DSO-FN

**R**evenues are forecasted to be \$56,500 in 2009 while expenses in the amount of \$63,900 will result in a deficit of \$7,400 this year. Last year, we generated a surplus of \$6,200 from revenues of \$57,400 and expenses of \$51,200 for the year. We had a surplus of \$12,600 in 2007, after revenues of \$59,300 and expenses of \$46,700. We have surplus funds exceeding \$105,000 that will allow us to finance any future deficits for several years.

This year, we expect 42 % of our income from Membership Dues, 35 % from Conference Revenues, 15 % from National Materials Center sales commissions and the balance from Interest earned on our invested funds. Conference Expenses are scheduled for 27% of our spending. Dues payments to National are forecasted to be 23 % of our expenses with Member Training and Member Awards, consuming another 19% of our funds.

Once again, the Executive Committee, District Nine, Western Region will be accepting applications for Trust Fund Grants to be distributed to specific Flotillas or Divisions. The deadline for applications, which need to be sent to me, is 31 March. Money for these Grants are available from two sources. One source is the annual interest earned from the Alexander Anderson Trust and the other interest earned from the William Skog Memorial Trust each year. There is a disbursement limit of \$3,700, from the Alexander Trust in 2009; and, \$500.00 from the Skog Memorial Trust. Grants awarded from the Alexander Trust must be designated for Boating Safety use, while the monies provided by the Skog Memorial need to support USCG Academy candidate visits from the AIM Program. Last year, we awarded \$3,700 to eight Flotillas and two Divisions from the Anderson Trust Fund.

Please contact me, at your convenience, for more specific information concerning applications for these Grants.

## **What Else our Members Do**

Kate Stimel recently won a national award with her musical group at a competition in Hawaii. She brought home the gold...Congratulations!

# PA is Every Member's Job

RON AIDIKONIS, DSO-PA

**B**eing new to the position of DSO-PA I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the things I would like to accomplish while serving as the District PA.

- Build upon existing District PA activities. Expanding our current projects and coming up a few new ones.
- Support and guide all those doing PA work in the District. My commitment is to assist all in PA and others that can use our help.
- Get more members involved in Public Affairs. "PA is everyone's job," if we want to grow we need all members to get the word out.

- Build teamwork in all PA activities. Work is not always fun, but volunteering should be. That way we will have more volunteers to accomplish our missions.
- Utilize our remote controlled Coastie throughout the District. Coastie is great PR tool for our organization, and we need to utilize him.
- District wide promotions for PE, recruiting, and other Auxiliary programs.
- Provide more PA training for the District for all.

These are all very broad based goals, which I will focus on in my duties, and will use as a guide in developing specific programs for the 9th Western District. I look forward to working with you all!

## Vessle Exam and Visitor Programs

ROY E. HUNDT, 9WR DSO-VE & PV

**T**he following is an overall performance report of the 2008 (VSC) Vessel Safety Check Program w/ (VEs) Vessel Examiners and the (RBSVP) Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program w/(PVs) Program Visitors including a 2009 challenge for both programs.

The 2008 VSC Program according to the recorded numbers had a very slow start through the month of AUGUST with a 35% decrease from the same time in 2007. The year end results were somewhat brighter completing 5587 VSCs, that equates to a 9.1% decrease of completed VSCs from 2007. On the average the completed VSC per VEs in 2007 decreased .06% from 2007. The VSC entity follows the trend of a good many entities in the 2008 9WR's Unit Summary.

The RBSVP (PV) Program had a 1.0% decrease in participating PVs in 2008, completing 4266

(PPVs) Program Partner Visits that equates to a 0.5% decrease of completed PPVs from 2007. With the decrease of PPVs, the average the completed PPVs per PV in 2008 decreased 6.0% from 2007. The RBSVP entity follows the trend of a good many entities in the 2008 9WR's Unit Summary.

I ask the 9WR Division Commanders & Flotilla Commanders for their assistance in supporting the VSC Program and RBSV Program for 2009 by encouraging their Vessel Examiners & Program Visitors to increase their VSCs & Program Visits by at least 50% over 2008's results.

Also encourage the PA's, PB's, PE's PV's & VE Flotilla Staff Officers to plan & work as a RBS Team for Blitzes, Dealer Shows & various Community Events.